

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2249
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007
SMUGGLING OF WILDLIFE ARTICLES
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the frequent reports of smuggling of Indian wildlife articles to neighbouring countries and incidents of poaching of wild animals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has discussed the issue with the neighbouring countries; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a)&(b) Large scale smuggling of Indian wildlife articles to neighbouring countries and incidents of poaching of wild animals has not been brought to the notice of this Ministry in recent times. However, considering the lucrative prices and demand for wildlife products in clandestine international markets, the possibility of poaching and smuggling of wildlife and its derivatives cannot be ruled out.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The steps taken by the Government against wildlife crime are as under:

1. The Central Government has enacted the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to deal with the issues of wildlife crime.
2. Stringent penalties are imposed on the offenders for the contravention of the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
3. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with a network of five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set up to control wildlife crime.
4. Financial support is being provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes – Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant, to State /UT Governments for the conservation and development of wildlife and its habitats.
5. India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that regulates international trade in wildlife and its derivatives.
6. India has bilateral arrangements with China and Nepal on combating wildlife crime.
7. India is also a founder member of the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking which is an international forum working against wildlife crime.